

CHURCH OF CHRIST SAN MATEO

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TWO PHILOSOPHICAL VIEWS TO CONSIDER: CONSISTENT FAITHFULNESS & ABJECT BOREDOM

In the world today we find adults who act like children when it comes to faithfulness: How many children have a room full of action figures, video games, cable TV, DVD player, a huge collection of movies, every piece of sports equipment known to man, his own telephone, a fully loaded computer with high-speed Internet access, but don't have a thing to do because they're bored? Boredom is the plague of every parent with a child out of school. The cries of "I'm bored!" seem to echo through the house just hours after school lets out. Boredom is not just an irritation; it is often the symptom of a deeper spiritual problem. People with time on their hands for personal things, but not spiritual things are bored with the Lord's work. What causes this? What things lead to boredom?

Surprisingly, having too much (or too many distractions) leads to dissatisfaction with what you already have. There is a law of diminishing returns. "Have you found honey? Eat only as much as you need, lest you be filled with it and vomit" (Proverbs 25:16, 27). A treat once in a while tastes wonderful, but too many sweets is not nearly as delightful and can ruin your health. With any "good thing," there is a limit to the amount we can enjoy before it becomes detrimental to us.

Laziness is another factor that causes boredom. Having nothing to do produces more of the same in a person's life. "Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, And an idle person will suffer hunger" (Proverbs 19:15). You would think that with the time in the world to relax, a lazy person would be bright and chipper. Instead, laziness has the opposite affect. Lazy people spend more time in bed than busy people and their extra sleep doesn't benefit them. "As a door turns on its hinges, so does the lazy man on his bed" (Proverbs 26:14). A door swings back and forth in one place, just as the lazy bum flips from side to side in his bed. Without work, there is no improvement in a person's life. Without something to do, a person fills his spare time getting involved in the affairs of other peoples' lives. "For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies" (II Thessalonians 3:11).

Finally, too often the things we accumulate distract us from the meaningful things we already possess. The more things we gather, the more our focus is on this world, and the less we focus on God (this is often reflected in an unwillingness to be involved in congregational activities, but having plenty of time for outside/personal activities). It is when we have little that we appreciate what we have and remember to show our appreciation to the Giver of all things. "Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts that drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (I Timothy 6:6-10).



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MANNY ANG

SONG LEADER

KEITH COHN

PRAYERS

LEE WEATHERBY
NOEL ANG

COMMUNION

CONRAD CABRERA
FRANK NICHOLS

PREACHING

JOHNNY OXENDINE

FILLING THE WORLD WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD

Isaiah 11:9





Supporting:
Apologetics Press
(Bert Thompson)

Indonesia
(Barry Hatcher)

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 2004

28 9:45 CLASS 11:00 WORSHIP 2:00 WORSHIP	29 Evangelism Class 7-8 pm	30	1 7:00 BIBLE CLASS	2	3	4
5 9:45 CLASS 11:00 WORSHIP 2:00 WORSHIP	6 Evangelism Class 7-8 pm	7	8 7:00 BIBLE CLASS	9	10 Keith Mosher, Sr. San Mateo Gospel Meeting	11
12 	13 Evangelism Class 7-8 pm	14	15 7:00 BIBLE CLASS	16	17 Hayward Church of Christ -	18 Ladies Holiday Tea
19 9:45 CLASS 11:00 WORSHIP 2:00 WORSHIP	20 Evangelism Class 7-8 pm	21	22 7:00 BIBLE CLASS	23	24	25 
26 9:45 CLASS 11:00 WORSHIP 2:00 WORSHIP	27 Evangelism Class 7-8 pm	28	29 7:00 BIBLE CLASS	30 	31 	1 Happy New Year! Be Safe!

NEWSCLIPS

WINTER LECTURE SERIES DEC. 10-12: COMMITMENT

The theme for the meeting is one that will be edifying for all of us, and we want to emphasize the importance of **congregational attendance** to each lesson since it will be at the same time as the meeting at Airport with Wayne Jackson.

While the timing is unfortunate, it is our responsibility to support our own meetings and not to depend on other congregations for record attendance.

LADIES HOLIDAY TEA ON DEC. 18...RSVP TO PAME

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PREVIEW...ROMANS 15:4

We had a wonderful discussion this past week on the first three verses of this chapter and look forward to our class on this often quoted verse.

We have asked that everyone prepare for the class by looking for areas where this verse might have application or reference. In other words, what might Paul have had reference to when this verse was penned. Invite friends and relatives to join us for a rousing discussion!

WE RECOMMEND - "SET FOR THE DEFENSE"...

The new issue of *The Spiritual Sword* is given over to this through a series of debates that make for more than "interesting" reading. Here we have an example of logic being used to defend the scriptures against those who do not believe that baptism is essential for salvation, that there is no scriptural authority for the doctrine of "once saved always saved", and the doctrine of the Godhead as presented by the scriptures. There are a few more topics under debate, but we think that you should get your copy and read them for yourself.

How important is it for us to be able to discuss these issues? Very important if we are going to "contend earnestly for the faith", and if we are going to be able "to give an answer" to those who ask why we are members of the Lord's church.

TRAVELING FOR THE HOLIDAYS? LET US KNOW...

We know that many will be out of town for the holidays: the Angs will be traveling through parts of Asia, Victor will leave on Dec. 15th for Detroit, and Keith will head to Texas. Keep us informed so that we can keep you in our prayers!